



Rooted in the Dominican Tradition since 1948!

SPARTAN NEWSLETTER

Volume 6

September 27, 2017



MISSION To provide a Catholic education that nurtures students' hearts and minds to become servant leaders in an ever changing world.

Front Office Corner

Office hours 7:30am-3:30pm and by appointment.

School Mass every Wednesday at 8:30am (or Fridays for the First Friday of each month)

Oct 2: Spirit Day; Jr Legion of Mary; Karate Club

Oct 3: Budding Botanists

Oct 5: Chess Club to 4pm

Oct 6: All School Mass; Karate Club

Oct 7: Saturday School

Oct 9: Boystown F/T (gr. 7-8); Jr Legion of Mary; Home and School Mtg @6:30pm (library)

Oct 10: Development mtg @430pm (parish center)

It looks like fall has arrived temporarily. Next week will be the beginning of October. Thanks to our parents who stopped by for last week's *Coffee with the Principal*. I enjoy these opportunities for our St. Mary's school parents to meet or reconnect—its what makes our faith community so vibrant. I am looking forward to the October coffee.

The end of this week, all families will receive a hard copy of the October School Events calendar and Breakfast/Lunch Menu. Please keep these resources close by for your reference.

Looking ahead, Parent and Teacher Conferences will be held Thursday, Oct. 26th from 11am-8pm. In order to serve you best, please schedule prior to October 16. *All parents are asked to make parent/teacher conferences a priority. This is the forum used by teachers to communicate with parents on their child's school progress. Like you, we want all our St. Mary's children to be successful...communication between teachers and parents are paramount.

Parents are asked to sign up for conferences by using Sycamore or by calling the office. For Sycamore, login and click on "My School", then "P/T Conference." Please contact your child's teacher directly to schedule a conference if these times do not work due to work schedules and other commitments that can't be changed. You may begin signing up for conferences today.

-Dr. Trish Wallinger, Principal

Wearing Shorts. According to the Parent/Student Handbook, walking shorts may be worn from August until October and April until the end of school. **The period for wearing shorts is extended until October 15th.**

Health Screenings. The school nurse, Mrs. Laney, will be conducting hearing and vision screenings on Monday, October 23 for grades 1-6 and 8, from ~8-10:30am/11am. We are seeking 7 more parent volunteers to assist with height, weight, vision and hearing screening. No formal medical training required. Please call the office to help.

October School Events Calendar & October Breakfast/Lunch menus will be sent to all families this Friday.

Don't forget to showcase your school pride this upcoming Mon, Oct. 2nd, for Spirit Day. On designated days, students may wear class spirit shirts with their uniform pants or skirt. Students may wear jeans with their spirit shirt if they opt to participate in our jeans charitable fundraiser (\$1). Jeans must be neat, clean, and free of holes. No rivets, cargo pants, low riders, hip huggers, or baggy pants, please.

School Webpage Thanks. We are very thankful to Michael Roach of Web Boy Design who created our website in 2011 and has taken care of the updates and changes at very competitive rates. Mr. Roach is very active with his dog rescue, Taysia Blue Rescue. To learn more, visit www.taysiablue.com. Taysia Blue Rescue strives to save lives by keeping Siberian Huskies and Alaskan Malamutes out of shelters. They provide them the with medical attention, socialization, exercise, food and a safe place to live with volunteer foster families until we can find them forever homes.

TERRA NOVA Testing. Terra Nova testing will continue throughout this week for grades 3-8. We encourage parents to make sure children have plenty of rest, exercise, and healthy eating during the rest of this week so they can do their best work.

Veterans Assembly. St. Mary's School will hold its annual veterans' assembly, November 10th, at 1:45pm in the school gym (special guests asked to arrive at 1:30pm). All veterans, retired and active duty are invited to attend. An eForm was sent to all our families inviting them to share info on veterans that we can honor during assembly. If you don't have a computer to complete eForm, please call the office to provide info (402-291-1694).

St. Mary's Alumni Association is selling *NEW* St. Mary's Alumni Shirts. Orders are due by Sept. 30. Order forms available in the office or on eNewsletter. Email MLNARIK.SARAH@GMAIL.COM with any questions.

2017-2018 Yearbook. That's right...we are now taking orders for our upcoming yearbook. The price will be \$18 during the time period of Sept 12-Oct 31st, then the price will increase to \$20 with orders from Nov 1-Jan 31, 2017 and so on.

Project Hope. Project HOPE – coordinators – Rhonda Prewitt and Kati Wilwerding – smscripcoord@cox.net. You can order on-line too! Create your account on ShopWithScrip.com. It will take approximately 1 week to create and set-up PrestoPay initially due to security processes. After that use PrestoPay without effort and take advantage of special deals through out the year! On-line PrestoPay enrollment code – 2L1FB7D76253. More information and links go to - <http://stmarysbellevue.com/> & click on Project HOPE.

IMPORTANT SCRIP PROGRAM NOTICE. Due to other ministries wanting access to SCRIP, the school will have the SCRIP box in the office from Monday morning until Thursday at 1pm. We will no longer have SCRIP on Fridays.



Jr High Youth Ministry. St. Mary's Junior High Youth Group (7th & 8th grades) will meet in the school gym on Sept. 27th from 5:30-6:30pm. Next Youth Group-School Gym, Oct. 11th.

The first Encounter Night (new this year) will be Oct. 15th at the 5pm Mass with dinner to follow. The Encounter event is from 7-8:30pm. We ask that a parent attend the Encounter Night with your student. Questions, contact Will Targy at 402-292-7688. ***Open to all school and parish families.**

*All 7th & 8th grade students are asked to attend at least 2 of our Wednesday night gatherings this semester to fulfill their Confirmation requirements. We also have 2 Encounter Nights on Oct. 15th & Dec. 3rd. Teens (and at least 1 parent) asked to attend at least 1 of these as well for Confirmation requirements. Questions, contact Will Targy (will.targy@stmarysbellevue.com) or [402.659.8981](tel:402.659.8981).

Confirmation Retreat Help. We are in need of adult small group guides for the 8th grade retreat, Sept 30th and the 7th grade retreat, Nov. 4th. We will need at least 6 adults for each retreat. You must be Safe Environment Trained. If you are a school parent this will count towards your volunteer hours. Please contact the RE office to help. We can't have a retreat without adults to help guide our youth.



40 Days for Life. You are invited to join other Christians from throughout Bellevue and Omaha to take part in the international 40 Days for Life, September 27 - November 5. St. Mary's Church will cover the hours from 8 a.m.- 8 p.m on Thursday, September 28th. Sign up sheets are at the front entrance of St. Mary's Church. For more info or to volunteer, contact Beth Mullen at mbeth50@cox.net or call 402-490-1303. Please consider volunteering to pray outside of the Bellevue abortion facility on any one or more hours during those 40 days and help spread the Word to others about this important life-saving effort.

Helping Veterans. Elwyn Frailey's (older brother of Bryce in 8th grade) Eagle Scout Project will begin next week. His project will support Moving Veterans Forward (MVF), a small, locally based non-profit organization that helps military veterans, who have recently been homeless, get set up into stable housing and become self-sufficient. Please consider donating the following items: shampoo, deodorant, shaving cream, laundry baskets, toilet paper, cleaning supplies, etc. Boxes will be located in the school and church until 9/30. Flyer attached in eNewsletter.



Come and Join our Couples for Christ Hayrack Ride. The hayrack ride and cookout will be at the Karnik family farm, 15315 Hwy. 75, Bellevue on Saturday, September 30th at 5 p.m. Grill will be provided, but please bring hamburgers/hotdogs, buns and drinks for your family and a side dish to share. Condiments and paper products will be provided. Questions? Email SaintMarysCIC@gmail.com or check us out or check us out on Facebook at Couples in Christ St. Mary's Bellevue, NE.

BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS. Bring your pets to the front of St. Mary's Hall on Saturday, September 30th at 9 a.m. and celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi as our model for our care of animals. All pets and their humans are welcome!



"Bethlehem Revisited" is Returning. Groups at St. Mary's are bringing back a beloved tradition – a "Living Nativity" on Saturday, December 9th from 7-9pm at the church, St. Mark's Hall and the parish center. Parishioners will re-enact the night Christ was born, with Roman soldiers, shepherds in the field, Joseph, Mary and Jesus. Watch for details; plan to bring the family!

HyVee Cash for Students. Calling all families, from September – December 31, 2017, if you hand in your receipts to the school office, the school earns \$. Every \$200 in receipts earns \$1 that the school will use to fund an assembly this year on anti-bullying. The assembly is called "Love Changes It All" featuring youth speaker and social skills educator Jeff Velej. Jeff's Social and Emotional Learning program teaches students how to face adversity, grow in resilience, and solve their own social problems. It's the perfect solution for schools who want to stop bullying/social aggression through skill-based education and student empowerment. We are also accepting cash donations to fund this special assembly.



Chess News. Chess News: Chess Club will meet on October 5th and 19th. Special thanks to Coach Carney for all his excellent instruction. We are very grateful. Coach Carney has played chess for over 50 years. He became Nebraska's Amateur Champion in 1988. He also finished 1st in my section in the 2013 Kansas City Club

Championship. He has club-level tournament director certification from the United States Chess Federation. Thank you Coach Carney! If you are interested in checking out Chess Club, please call the office.

Skinny Bones Pumpkin Patch. Saturday, Oct. 21st, all 6th-12th graders are invited to join us for a fall outing at Skinny Bones Pumpkin Patch in Blair, NE. Cost is \$25 (non-refundable) which includes transportation, admission & dinner. Check-in is at 5pm at St. Mary's School parking lot. Will return around 1030pm. Checks payable to "St. Mary's Youth Ministry." Forms previously sent home. If you need another form, please call the office.

Home and School Association

Family Fun Night at Papio Fun Park – Thank you to all of the families that attended. We had 29 families attended that had fun! Look for more family fun opportunities coming in the future.

Fall Fundraiser – One more week to sell!! Dates for the fundraiser are Wednesday, Sept 13th through Wednesday, October 4th. Delivery date will be determined after our order has been submitted; however it will occur prior to Thanksgiving. We will need a couple of volunteers to help in the disbursement of the products, more information will be coming in the newsletter when we have the delivery date firmed up.

We are asking each family to sell at least 20 items or participate in the \$250 buy out option (tax deductible receipt given if you participate in this option). Please have all checks made out to St. Mary's Home & School.

Online Ordering is simple! Please see the insert in the packet on how to complete set-up. This is a great way to get family and friends involved that don't live nearby. The items will be sent directly to them for on-line orders.

Prizes continue to go home on Tuesday and Fridays. The handing out of the Piglets are random, if a student gets a duplicate please have them trade with friends. Mrs. Braxton also has some if you would like to trade with her.

We encourage all families to participate as this is one of our biggest fundraisers of the year and every little bit helps. I appreciate your support through the fundraiser and if you have any questions or feedback please don't hesitate to contact Home and School.



Food Night – Culvers - Just a quick reminder that our September food night is Thursday (the 28th) at Culver's in Bellevue (located at 3602 Raynor Pkwy) from 4:00-8:00 P.M. St. Mary's School will receive 20% of proceeds during that time. No flyers needed. You can go inside or through the drive-thru. This is a great opportunity to buy Culver's SCRIP too. For menu information, check out their website at <http://www.culvers.com/restaurants/bellevue>. Hope to see you there!

St. Mary's 5th Annual Trivia Night will be Friday, October 20th at St. Mary's Gym. Doors open at 6pm and trivia begins at 7pm. Gather a group of 6-8 people per team at just \$12 per person. Call Willie and Liz Wessling to register at [402-291-0785](tel:402-291-0785) or email williewessling@hotmail.com<mailto:williewessling@hotmail.com>. Beer, wine and pop provided. Bring in your own food. Prizes awarded for the best score and best decorated table! Buy a change to win the 50/50 Raffle and bid on Nebraska football tickets for the Iowa game!

Halloween Fun Night Save the Date: Friday October 27th! Halloween Fun Night is back. Look for more detailed information in next week's newsletter.

Financial Hope Collaborative: Creighton University. Single working mothers ages 19 to 55 may be eligible to participate in a research study to determine the effects of financial education on health outcomes. All participants undergo: 2 clinic visits at Creighton University, monthly phone follow-up, and monetary stipend for time and travel. For more info, please call the office.

Looking Back on September Fun...



Prayer at meal time



Math Fun



Pre-Kindergarten Enrichment



Lunch with Friends



Mass with Buddies

A special thanks to our school photographer, Mrs. Feagan

Thanks for the beautiful memories



Leadership in Ministry